

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

TRSE-00 RSR-01 /085 W

----- 116412

R 042122 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1560
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OOVIP JM VE (MANLEY, MICHAEL)

SUBJ: MANLEY'S VENEZUELAN SOJOURN

1. SUMMARY. MANLEY'S RETURN GREETED BY HIS SUPPORTERS. HE TALKS EFFUSIVELY ABOUT THE NEW START ON RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA BUT AVOIDS PREDICTIONS OF GREAT THINGS TO COME. VISIT SUPPORTED BY THE LOCAL PRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER'S RETURN FROM HIS SUCCESSFUL VENEZUELAN SOJOURN WAS RECEIVED ENTHOUSIASTICALLY BY HIS SUPPORTERS, BOTH AT THE AIRPORT AND AT A PARTY RALLY, SYMBOLICALLY HELD IN THE SHADOW OF THE BOLIVAR STATUE IN KINGSTON. MANLEY ARRIVED AT THE BOLIVAR MONUMENT TO THE CHEERS OF SOME 1,000 LOCAL PARTY WORKERS AND SUPPORTERS TO BE OFFICIALLY WELCOMED BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE, DAVID COORE, WHO EFFUSIVELY CONGRATULATED HIM AND MRS. MANLEY FOR A JOB WELL DONE. THE PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED BY READING AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE VISIT (POUCHED SEPERATELY), FOLLOWED BY AN IMPROMPTU OPEN- AIR PRESS CONFERENCE, IN WHICH HE LAUDED THE OPPOSITION FOR LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR HIS MISSION BY HAVING INVITED THE VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO JAMAICA IN 1970.

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3. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT, MANLEY WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING SHOWN BY THE VENEZUELANS FOR JAMAICA PROBLEMS. HE APPEARED EVEN MORE IMPRESSED, HOWEVER, WITH HIS VISIT TO BOLIVAR STATE AND THE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX WITH ITS IRON AND STEEL MILLS AND ALUMINUM SMELTER. HE SAID THAT, AS A RESULT OF HIS VISIT, HE HAD GAINED A MUCH BETTER IDEA OF WHAT JAMAICA AND VENEZUELA HAD TO OFFER EACH OTHER IN TERMS OF INVESTMENT AND TRADE OPPORTUNITIES. HE WAS CAREFUL TO EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT HIS VISIT WAS ONLY AN INITIAL CONTACT AND THAT MUCH REMAINED TO BE DONE IN TERMS OF FURTHERING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND EXPLORING WAYS FOR COOPERATION.

4. IN A MAR 30 EDITORIAL THE DAILY GLEANER GAVE ITS FULL SUPPORT TO THE MANLEY VISIT, NOTING THAT THE EXPANSION OF RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA WAS LONG OVERDUE. THE GLEANER SUPPORTED EXPANDED COOPERATION, SPECIFICALLY THE SOLICITING OF VENEZUELAN INTEREST IN KINGSTON'S EXPANDING TRANSHIPMENT FACILITIES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SECURING VENEZUELAN CRUDE FOR JAMAICA'S PROPOSED OIL REFINERY COMPLEX.

5. COMMENT: THE VISIT WAS HANDLED IN A LOW KEY BY THE PRESS AND HAS NOT EVOKED A GREAT DEAL OF COMMENT IN JAMAICA. WITH LIVE TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE STATE DINNER, HOWEVER, I CAN NOT BUT HELP ENHANCE THE STATURE OF MANLEY AS A STATESMAN.
ROBERTS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KINGST01075
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730431/aaaahluf.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <23-Jan-2002 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971119
Subject: MANLEY' S VENEZUELAN SOJOURN
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, JM, VE, (MANLEY, MICHAEL)
To: ARA
BRIDGETOWN
CARACAS
GEORGETOWN
PORT OF SPAIN
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005